

As a Christian community, meeting together to worship God, we affirm our commitment to ensuring the safety of each child who interacts with our community.

Our statement of commitment for Child Safety is available on our website or in the Narthex of each Parish Centre.

Mission Statement: *To live as disciples of Christ embracing his teaching of love and service to all.*

Vision Statement: *To be known as God's people of prayer, to be welcoming of all our sisters and brothers by being inclusive and sensitive to diversity, open to change and growing as a community by the love and grace of Christ.*

STEWARDSHIP GIVING

Please consider using Direct Deposit for your Stewardship giving.

Bank account details - BSB 703122, Indue Ltd. Account no. 05004414

The account is in the name of - St. Matthew's Glenroy/Hadfield with St. Linus' Merlynston

DIARY THIS WEEK

Monday 5th. February

Martyrs of Japan, crucified at Nagasaki (d.1597)

Wednesday 7th. February 10.00 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's, including Mothers' Union Prayers and fellowship.

Friday 9th. February 10.30 am. Holy Communion at Colton Close Aged Care Facility

Sunday 11th. February 9.00 am. Eucharist at St. Linus'
Last Sunday after 10.30 am. Eucharist at St. Matthew's,
Epiphany - Transfiguration Following the Service -

Forum for parish name change: At the APM it was noted that we will be looking to rename the parish so that we are seen as part of the community rather than an exclusive gathering. Please come along to share your thoughts.

4.00 pm. Hindi Eucharist at St. Matthew's

LOOKING AHEAD

Shrove Tuesday 7.00 pm. Tuesday 13th February. We will be gathering at St Linus' to share pancakes and fellowship.

ASH WEDNESDAY 14th. February. Services for the imposition of Ashes:

- 7.00 pm St Linus'
- 10.00 am and 7.00 pm St Matthew's.

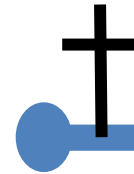
Forum for parish name change: 18th February after service at St Linus'. At the APM it was noted that we will be looking to rename the parish so that we are seen as part of the community rather than an exclusive gathering. Please come along to share your thoughts.

Monday 19th. February - Connect Meditation: Guided Spiritual Meditation, 1.30 pm. at St. Matthew's. All are welcome to participate in a time of quiet reflection and refreshment. Please bring a cushion or rug, or both. Enquiries: Glenda 0448 821 218

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 04-02-2024

WELCOME

*The services within our parish can be seen on the screens during the service.
Please see one of our welcomers if you would like to use the complete prayer book.
Morning tea will follow the service.
Please join in our fellowship time.*



The Anglican Parish of Glenroy / Hadfield with Merlynston
St Matthew's Church - 30 Widford St Glenroy 3046
St Linus' Church - 21 Glyndon Ave Merlynston 3058

Where you find yourself in Christ

PARISH PRIEST: The Reverend Robert Koren

Email: priest@matthewlinus.org.au

Parish Mobile: 0493 384 108

Parish Phone: 9306 9528

This Week,

Rev Rob can be found at: St. Linus' Mon. 9am to 3pm and St. Matthew's Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm.
Available at other times by appointment only.

PARISH WEBSITE - www.matthewlinus.org.au

PARISH FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/matthewlinus

PARISH PODCAST - www.buzzsprout.com/1974085

Assistant Priest

The Reverend Prashant Bhonsle 0457 876 622

This Week,

Rev. Prashant can be found at: St. Matthew's Fri. 9 am. to 3 pm. Unavailable Thursday this week.

Authorised Honorary Lay Minister

Glenda Owen 0448 821 218

Authorised Honorary Parish Reader

Kerryn Pratchett 0409 306 818



Love. Grow. Serve.

Acknowledgement of Country

From time immemorial the Wurundjeri people have cared for this land, nurtured it, depended on it and given honour and thanks to the Creator.

As we acknowledge their faithful custodianship of the land, and the sacred stories they have told; as we offer our respect to their elders, past, present and emerging, guide us Lord in caring for them, this land, and each other with the help of the Holy Spirit of Dreaming.

Sentence: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. *Isaiah 40. 31.*

Collect: Saving God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, healed the sick, and brought them wholeness of body and mind; inspire us, his disciples, so that we may constantly proclaim his gospel by our words, and by the dedication and integrity of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 40:21-31;

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm 147: 1–11;

1 O praise the Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God;
and to praise him is joyful and right.

2 The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem;
he is gathering together the scattered outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the broken in spirit;
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars;
and calls them all by name.

5 Great is our Lord, and great is his power;
there is no measuring his understanding.

6 The Lord restores the humble;
but he brings down the wicked to the dust.

7 O sing to the Lord a song of thanksgiving;
sing praises to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with cloud, and prepares rain for the earth;
and makes the grass to sprout upon the mountains.

9 He gives the cattle their food;
and feeds the young ravens that call to him.

10 He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse;
nor does he delight in anyone's legs,

11 But the Lord's delight is in those that fear him;
who wait in hope for his mercy,

The second reading is from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 9:16–23;

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Hear the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

The Lord be with you; and also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:29-39; Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons

This is the Gospel of the Lord Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Faith Matters: Remaining contemporary in our missional approach is essential.

The healthy church framework asks us to consider how well we reinvent ourselves so that we can release the glory of God into our community in a contemporary way and not get locked into one way of doing things. Over the next little while we will be revisiting identity by looking at changing the parish name to something that unlocks mission and ministry so that we can be contemporary in our approach. Being contemporary in mission and ministry is something we read about in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. He was surrounded by Jews, Romans and Greeks and knew their culture well. He writes about how he changed his identity so that the gospel had a better chance to be understood by various groups he was ministering to. Paul adapted himself and his cultural interaction so that he could walk with the people he was sharing the gospel with.

In the gospel we see Jesus doing the same. To some he gives learning and to others he gives healing and casts out demons. He even leaves the comfort of Peter's accommodation to go and seek others, and based on what He has already done, Jesus will do whatever he needs for people to know God's glory in their lives - even if he does it differently to the way he did it in Capernaum.

The reading from 1 Corinthians and the gospel today should give us confidence that we need to be a parish that reinvents itself to be able to speak into a culture that is every changing. We are called to reinvent ourselves in ways that allow others to prosper. The people in Corinth were inflexible and smug in their identities. We need to be a parish that is flexible and outward looking. We need to be a parish that changes its form of worship and elements such as music and style so that those around us can find Jesus in our provisions.

One thing that never changes is the message we share. The creed which we recite each week is the essential core. We love our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. In loving our neighbour as God has loved us, we must remember that we were convicted by the Holy Spirit through a personal and incarnate relationship with God. Jesus made himself know to us within our life circumstances and challenges. We too must provide a space where people can come to as they are to find their relationship with Christ. *Blessings, Rev. Rob.*